



THE SIGN OF THE KING

(Matthew 24: 1 to 51)

Starter: How do false religious teachings occur?

1. In verses 1 and 2 Jesus predicts the destruction of the much-revered temple. Does Matthew 21:42 and 1 Peter 2: 6 & 7 explain why this was necessary?
2. As Jesus looked into the future he warned his disciples about the coming of false 'Messiahs' (verses 5, 23 & 24; Acts 5:36). Can you think of any similar political or religious claimants in more recent times? How would we know them to be false?
3. In explaining verse 23 to 25 Don Carson says 'empty-headed credulity is as great an enemy of true faith as chronic scepticism'. So how can we be on guard against attractive religious ideas which veer away from the truth? See 1 Timothy 3: 5 to 8 and 6:3 to 5.
4. The coming of the Messiah will be so clear and plain that there is no way of mistaking his true credentials (verses 26 and 27). Why is this different to the way various imposters come 'in his name'?
5. In verses 30 and 31 the sudden appearance of the 'Son of Man' will be a cataclysmic event. How will his 'hiddenness' also bring about our 'appearance' and what will that involve? See Colossians 3: 3 & 4.
6. How can we also be ready for Christ's return (verse 33) without treating our Bibles as though they were religious 'crystal balls' predicting the immediate future? (See verse 36). How will his coming affect international history?
7. Why will Christ's return be similar to what happened in the 'days of Noah' (verse 37 to 39)? Does the way life goes on as usual in the world warn us about the suddenness of his re-appearance?
8. What advice do verses 45 to 51 have for those waiting for the Lord's return? What would this amount to in practical terms?